

XX. STATE ADVISORY PANEL

The State of Iowa reaffirms that Iowa has established and maintains an advisory panel for the purpose of providing policy and guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State. The Director of the Iowa Department of Education appoints members of the advisory panel.

The Iowa Special Education Advisory Panel is representative of the state population and is composed of individuals involved in, or concerned with, the education of children with disabilities. Composition of the panel meets all federal requirements described in this section with a majority of the members being individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities. Current membership lists are maintained and an active recruitment effort is implemented in order to meet this requirement. Terms of panel members are for three years and are staggered to assure a broad base of expertise at all times.

The advisory panel advises the Iowa Department of Education on those functions required by this section and lists those same functions in advisory panel bylaws. The annual report also reflects the mission and duties of the panel. The bylaws are amended as needed to reflect changes in federal statute.

The advisory panel meets as often as required by its bylaws, with additional meetings scheduled as necessary. Meetings are held in accord with Iowa's open meetings statute. Official minutes are kept on file with the panel secretary and are available to the public upon request. All panel meetings and agenda items are planned and announced well in advance to allow interested parties to attend. Interpreters and other necessary accommodations, e.g., enlarged print, are provided for panel members and participants when the state agency is made aware of such needs. Panel members are reimbursed for expenses such as lodging, meals, mileage, and child care, etc. By July 1 of each year, the panel prepares an annual report for the state education agency, which includes panel membership, duties and a summary of major activities and recommendations. This report is made available to the public and sent to those interested in applying for panel membership.